## Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, SP

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ORIENTATION WITH REGARD TO THE

OVERALL SPANISH ECONOMIC PROGRAM

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL BY THE CHARGE, THE NEW UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, JOSE MARIA ALVAREZ DEL MANZANO, HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE WHICH INDICATE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO INTEGRATE AGRICULTURAL POLICY MORE INTO OVERALL NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY THAN IN THE PAST.

2. ALVAREZ DEL MANZANO SAID THAT THE DECISION TO APPOINT MEN WITH ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS TO THE POSITIONS OF BOTH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WAS A DELIBERATE ONE THAT SIGNALLED THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE A FULLY COHERENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC PORGRAM THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE INTEGRATION OF AGROCULTURAL POLICY.

3. HE SAID THAT AS IN OTHER ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC POLICY,
THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD PLACE
MAXIUM FEASIBLE EMPHASIS ON MARKET FORCES. IN THIS
CONNECTION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DE-EMPHASIZE PROGRAMS SPONSORED
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BY THE FARM COMMODITY AND PRICE STABILIZATION AGENCY (FORPPA). THIS DOUBTLESS WILL PROVE A DELICATE BUSINESS SINCE THE QUESTION OF DIMINISHING THE ROLE OF FORPPA, WHICH HAS BEEN LARGE, WILL EFFECT INEFFICIENT PRODUCERS.

4. ALVAREZ DE MANZANO'S PERSONAL POSITION ON AGRARIAN REFORM IS THAT THE INTENSIVENESS WITH WHICH LAND IS BEING

WORKED, NOT THE SIZE OF THE HOLDING, SHOULD BE THE CRITERION FOR REFORM. INTERESTINGLY, HE SAID THAT THE WORKERS COMMENT ON THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM HAD PRESENTED A SPECIFIC LIST OF LARGE LAND HOLDINGS THAT THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS WANTED NATIONALIZED.EATON

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